

Valley Rabbit Growers End Series of Industry Sessions

Rabbit growers of southern Oregon recently completed a series of classes arranged by County Agent Earle Josy covering everything from building, to breeding to diseases.

R. J. Ritchey, local rabbit man, explained recommended types of buildings, hutches, nest boxes, watering facilities and feeders.

Ritchey told how the type of building has changed progressively from the old styles of warren, to hutches from scrap material and any wire handy to the present types of self-cleaning wire.

John Truly, another local rabbit grower, told of the different types of hutches in use and demonstrated their construction. He showed a Quonset type of hutch. He also demonstrated the different types of nest boxes being used, how to construct them and the cost.

Charles Call, another local rabbit man, told of several different types of feeders and watering equipment now being used in this area. He suggested that when possible, an automatic system should be

installed. Different types of heating cable can be used in cold weather to keep rabbits from freezing, he explained.

Gene Mars, local grower, gave a demonstration on palpation and showed how it is possible to determine if the doe rabbit has been bred, even the date of breeding.

For the second evening session, Dr. Ralph Bogart, OSU animal husbandry professor, lectured on breeding and showed how genetics are a factor. He explained in detail the many things which can happen when proper breeding and planning are not followed.

A representative of the Albers experimental farm in Washington showed the food value of grains and grasses with charts for the third evening lecture. He gave figures to explain the nutritional values of different feeds, the grains and hay used in petting feed. He also explained in detail the need for certain minerals and vitamins. Charts were used to show the total

digestive nutrients in different feeds.

The next evening was again turned over to the local growers for their ideas and explanations on profitable development of rabbit fryers.

Record Keeping
Mrs. John Truly talked on management and record keeping. Her method is recognized by local growers as being exceptionally accurate.

Mrs. Davis, Grants Pass, also talked on record keeping and showed her methods.

Ray Powell, Rogue River, demonstrated how he chooses proper breeding stock. His rabbitry is well established.

The fifth and final evening, Karl Hagen, U.S. Experimental farms, Fontana, Calif., and one of the greatest authorities on rabbit diseases, told of the many and varied diseases which bother the rabbit grower, possible cures and preventative measures.

Hagen urged rabbit growers to try for more money for government research programs on rabbits.



CROWING HEN—Biddie, a hen owned by Mrs. Mildred Bray, 1830 North Riverside ave., started crowing when her rooster died recently. She has stopped crowing the last few days, and still lays eggs. The crowing is considered odd, but not unique and is caused by a hormone change.

Biddie, Crowing Hen Becomes Valley Oddity

FROM THE GROUND UP
By BART BARTLETT

At this time of year most people are doing a certain amount of work in flower gardens and on lawns.

Much of this effort is of a routine nature and its effect is very temporary. Pruning of shrubs and bushes is a job that is done once each year and when done the effect is lasting as opposed to lawn mowing that must be done very often during the growing season.

The cultivation of shrubs and flowers for weed removal can be a frequent and time-consuming job. Where the plants will stand mulches the frequency of cultivation can be reduced considerably and in some instances to none at all. Such materials as bark, sawdust and leaf mold are usually available and can be used as mulches around a great variety of landscape plants.

Bark Available
Ground bark is available in this area and makes a very satisfactory mulch for home use. It can be obtained in a variety of particular sizes. For best weed control a layer of very finely ground bark should be placed on the surface of the soil. This layer can be covered over with a rather thick layer of the coarser bark. The coarse bark will prevent water logging and provide some gas exchange between the soil and air. The large particles of bark on top will also prevent the finer bark from being removed from the area by the action of water from lawn sprinklers. Mulches also prevent mud from being deposited on the walls of buildings by the irrigation water.

Mistletoe should be removed from oaks, especially if it is growing on over 25 per cent of the limbs and the tree is one that is considered valuable. A few bunches of this pest in oak trees has some decorative effect during the winter months. It can kill oaks when a large number of the limbs become infested. When it is desired to provide fertilizer to large trees around the home, it is wise to drill or punch a large number of small diameter holes in the soil beneath the limb spread of the trees. The fertilizer should be mixed with sand or soil before it is placed in the holes. The mixture should be about half each of fertilizer and sand or soil. Sand should be used for this purpose when trees are growing in bare hard packed soil. The sand will be an aid to the penetration of irrigation water in such areas.

It is a good idea to clean all weeds and grasses away from young fruit trees as soon as possible. This will permit them to get off to a fast start and make the greatest possible amount of growth this season.

The weather during the peach bloom season was not favorable for cross pollination. Bees and other insect

By MARY ALICE BRUSH
A crowing hen . . . ? Yes, and that little chicken belongs to Mrs. Mildred Bray, 1830 North Riverside ave., Medford.

The first week of March, Fancy Pants, the rooster, and long time friend of Biddie, was killed by an automobile. He had always been able to attract attention from his owner by perching directly under the living room window. He would throw back his head and crow two or three times. If that didn't get results he moved around the house and found a window shade open, usually in sight of Mrs. Bray. Then he would crow again. By that time—having made his wishes known—together with his little friend he would call the corn thrown to them. They would finish the day out side by side.

Strange Noises
A week passed. On March 13, Mrs. Bray heard funny noises beneath the same window. She looked out, and there stood Biddie as big as life with her head thrown back crowing, in almost the same voice as her rooster.

Eerie . . . ? Who knows? Why does such a chicken suddenly develop these abnormal characteristics? According to County Agent Earle Josy these things are unusual but not rare. The cause is an abnormal condition which develops due to a hormone change. In this case, Josy believes the hen will continue to lay until she has depleted her egg bag and never lay again.

Josy also said it is possible Biddie will take on some of the other mannerisms of the male, even to a comb and tail feathers.

Both Fancy Pants and Biddie, when the rooster was killed, were two years old and according to Mrs. Bray, the little banty hen is laying every other day. Are there any other crowing hens in the valley, if so where?

Is there any truth in the saying that a whistling woman, and a crowing hen always come to some bad end? However, the hen has ceased to crow.

Better Dairy Food Program Under Way

Corvallis—Basic research by Oregon State university microbiologists has opened the door toward a practical solution for a problem that's costly to the dairy industry.

The problem? Frequent, unexplained and undesirable flavors and/or textures in cheese, buttermilk, sour cream and other fermented dairy foods.

Dr. William E. Sandine, OSU microbiologist, said the reason for the problem has been found and he hopes the solution will be the next step.

He explained that starter cultures of bacteria are used in the manufacture of various dairy products. To make a uniform product day after day, the manufacture has to count on his bacterial starter culture to have the same properties day after day.

pollinators were not active for a single day during the time that peach blossoms were receptive to pollen. It is possible that the brisk winds at that time were effective in spreading the pollen.

Bartletts Worth Less on Market, Hit Quantity Mark

Corvallis—Value of 1962 Oregon crops has been placed at nearly \$253 million, about 8 per cent higher than in 1961.

Total crop tonnage was estimated at 5.4 million, up about 7 per cent, with both higher average prices and higher yields figuring in the increase, report Oregon State university agricultural economists.

In terms of value, wheat led the list. Other leading value crops, in order, were hay, barley, potatoes, snap beans for processing, pears, strawberries, ryegrass seed, cherries and oats.

These 10 crops accounted for nearly three-fourths of Oregon's 1962 crop value, according to Mrs. Elvera Horrell, OSU extension economist.

The past year was one of the better ones for Oregon tree fruit production, but a poor year for tree nuts. Tree fruit output was up about 29 per cent over 1961, but value changed very little, Mrs. Horrell said.

Oregon's sweet cherry orchards yielded 33,000 tons of fruit in 1962, up 7,500 tons from 1961. The sour cherry crops turned out 7,200 tons, up 1,900 tons and the largest on record, reports Marks. However, cherries were valued at slightly less than the previous year.

Pear Orchards
The state's pear orchards were unusually heavy producers in 1962, with a total production of 153,750 tons, some 33,000 more than 1961, he added. The Bartlett crop, which set a new record, was up 18,000 tons, but was worth about 15 per cent less. The winter pear crop was 15,000 tons more with a higher value than in 1961.

The 1962 peach crop turned out 470,000 bushels, up 40,000 bushels from 1961. Apple production went up nearly a fifth, but lower prices held value down.

Nursing ewes will eat almost a pound of salt a month. This is because salt is an essential ingredient of milk, whether it comes from a ewe, cow or goat.

Cal-Ore Sets Bull Sale For Oct. 9 In Medford

The Cal-Ore Hereford association and the Jackson County Cattlemen's association will hold their annual Range Ready Bull Sale on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 1963, according to Earle Josy, Secretary of Cal-Ore Hereford association.

The 1963 sale will again feature bulls of all breeds selected by a committee made up of three purebred breeders and three commercial cattlemen. To be eligible bulls must grade not less than 2.

Twig Borer Spray Follows Petal Fall

A spray for control of peach twig borer on peaches and apricots should be applied as soon as petals have fallen, County Agent Don Berry advised today.

It is at this time the overwintering borers emerge and attack the newly developing shoots, he said.

On each acre use 10 pounds of Diazinon or five pounds of Thiodan. In hose rigs use two pounds of Diazinon or one pound of Thiodan per 100 gallons of water.

For peaches only add six pounds of wettable sulfur per 100 gallons or 24 pounds per acre to aid in control of brown rot and mildew. Sulfur will damage apricots.

Twig borer damage has been abundant several years and this spray should not be omitted, Berry said.

Fertilizer Suggestions Ready for Nut Growers

Corvallis—Fertilizer recommendations for walnut and filbert orchards in Oregon are now available from county extension offices. The recommendations were prepared by John H. Painter, U.S. Department of Agriculture horticulturist stationed at Oregon State university.

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An innovation for the 1963 sale will be the offering of about ten carefully selected dwarf-free heifers. Local buyers at Cal-Ore have requested the inclusion of a few good quality heifers in the sale.

The 1963 Bull Sale Committee is headed by J. W. (Bill) Bigham. Members are Don Bradshaw, Don Nichols and Dick Ireland representing purebred cattle, and Darrell Stanley, Leon Offenbacher and Clayton Charley representing commercial cattlemen and the Jackson County Stockmen's association.

The bull sale committee will give a report during the Cal-Ore Hereford association's regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 16.

Cattlemen will also discuss the different ways of feeding as brought out on the recent winter feeding tour of valley ranches.

Send Resolution
Following a talk last month by the president of the California Hereford association, the local association sent a resolution to the Oregon congressional delegation to oppose dual grading. It was based on the resolution passed by the National Cattlemen's association.

Cal-Ore President Eddie Meeker said about 40 bulls

have been consigned to the bull sale to date, but the committee hasn't contacted outside ranches yet. The selection tour will probably be in August to give the bulls a better chance to grow a little, he said.

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745 Cattle Sold; Market Active On All Classes

The Midway auction sold 745 cattle during its regular Friday, April 5 sale.

Owner-Manager Bill Bray reported the market active and strong on all classes.

Good to choice steer calves at \$28 to \$30.30. Calves weighing 400 to 500 pounds brought \$26 to \$28.

Good to choice heifer calves at \$25 to \$28.50.

Good yearling steers, 550 to 610 pounds, brought \$23 to \$27.25. Feeder steers weighing 600 to 700 pounds went out at \$22.50 to \$24.50.

Good to choice yearling heifers at \$20 to \$24.50. Yearling heifers brought \$22.50 to \$25.10.

Steer Calves
Holstein steer calves sold for \$22 to \$24.10. Yearling Holstein steers earned \$18 to \$21. One penlot of 48 head weighing an average of 853 pounds sold for \$19 per hundredweight.

A pen of 23 Hereford cows with calves sold for \$235 per pair. A pen of 11 pairs sold for \$227.50 and other pairs sold from \$185 to \$220 per pair.

Fat steers and heifers sold from \$18.50 to \$22.10. These probably graded standard to good.

Fat cows sold for \$16 to \$17.50. Most utility cows sold for \$14 to \$15.50. Cutters sold for \$12 to \$14 and canners at \$8 to \$12 with a few emaciated shells selling from four to eight cents.

Slaughter culls went out at \$17 to \$20.10. The top price was paid for a 1,930 pound Holstein bull.

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Farm & Garden Cooperation Needed To Prevent Bee Kill

County Agent Donald Berry today urged cooperation of both beekeepers and orchardists to prevent further heavy bee kills from chemical sprays or dust.

Berry noted some local beekeepers recently reported up to 90 per cent kill in their hives.

"Since bees are important as pollinizers and honey producers we feel fruit growers and others applying insecticides should take all possible precautions in protecting them," the county agent said.

"Most important is to warn beekeepers in the area prior to chemical treatments," Berry said.

Growers should not allow insecticides to drift outside the application area if at all possible, he advised. Sprays or dust should be applied early in the morning when the bees are not working as a further precaution. Sometimes the insecticides repel bees and keep them out.

Dust and sprays should not be applied when the fruit is in full bloom nor should bees be put in the orchard until 10 to 20 per cent of the blossoms are open.

"Most of the bee poisoning is from cover crops and not the trees," Berry said. "This can be prevented by discing in mustard or other blooming cover crops which the bees tend to work. This should be

Spray Circular Ready On Pears and Apples

Corvallis—The 1963 Spray program for apples and pears produced in the Willamette Valley has just been published by Oregon State University and is now available from county extension offices.

The circular was prepared by the OSU Cooperative Extension Service in cooperation with the OSU departments of entomology, plant pathology and agricultural chemistry. The schedules were prepared to meet spraying requirements for the control of various pests of apples and pears in the Willamette valley.

Montague Girl Reports to Bureau

Montague—Ronda Eller of Montague and Linda Klingler, Fort Jones, reported on their trip to the "Food for Youthpower" conference at Astoria to the Shasta Valley Farm Bureau at its recent meeting at the Montague Club room.

Ronda and Linda, accompanied by Ronda's mother, Mrs. Joe Eller, made the trip to Astoria Feb. 15 to 17, after being chosen from among a number of contestants from throughout the county.

Ronda, a freshman at Yreka High school, reviewed her entry in the contest which was "Careers in Food". She listed a number of opportunities for a career in the food industry, with special emphasis on the canning industry.

Linda, a freshman at Fort Jones High school, told of her "Food 'N Fun" entry. Her project was particularly concerned with nutrition. She had made a survey among teenagers regarding the foods they ate. Ronda made her recommendations for improved nutrition.

Pictures and pamphlets on the conference were shown to the group attending, to further explain the purpose of it.

John McMurtry, center chairman, conducted the business portion of the meeting. At the close refreshments of cupcakes, tea and coffee were served by Mrs. A. S. Quadros and Mrs. Robert Hogan.

WELL WATER PURIFICATION

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